II. Claim Amendments

1. (Presently Amended) A replicon of a pestivirus which is incapable of expressing one or more structural proteins of the virus, characterized in that said replicon expresses all structural proteins of a pestivirus except for a functional C and/or E1 protein, but wherein the coding sequences encoding the part of the C and/or the E1 protein essential for further downstream processing are retained or replaced by a coding sequence encoding analogous signal sequences from another pestiviral species.
2. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The replicon according to claim 1, characterized in that at least part of the coding sequence of the E1 or C protein has been deleted from said replicon.
3. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The replicon according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that said replicon does not encode a functional C protein.
4. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The replicon according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that said replicon is of the Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV).
5. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The replicon according to claim 4, characterized in that the coding region encoding amino acid positions 201-243 of the C protein have been deleted.
6. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The replicon according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that said replicon does not encode a functional E1 protein.
7. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The replicon according to claim 4, characterized in that the coding region encoding amino acid positions 498 to 653 of the E1 protein have been deleted.

8. (Presently Amended) The i~~I~~nfectious viral particle of Pestivirus, characterized in that it contains a replicon according to Claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-7~~.

9. (Presently Amended) A method for the production of viral particles of a Pestivirus according to claim 8, characterized in that said method comprises the following steps:

a. Providing cells that are permissive for the Pestivirus and express Pestiviral E1 and/or C protein,

b. Transfecting said cells with in-vitro transcribed RNA of a replicon according to Claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~,

c. Culturing transfected cells obtained in step b,

d. Harvesting the viral particles from the cultured cells.

10. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 9, characterized in that said pestivirus is BVDV.

11. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, characterized in that said cells express the E1 and/or C protein of BVDV.

12. (Original) A vaccine containing infectious viral particles according to claim 8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.